

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

- Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 3-8 with the following paragraph:

-- As used herein, the term "part" refers to any discrete object that is desired to be conveyed and deposited by an apparatus of the present invention. A part may be supplied to the processing line as a discrete object, or may be severed from a substantially continuous material supply, such as a web or other supply of material. Preferably, the parts are supplied as a ~~continuous supply of sheet, yarn, fiber, or other material.~~ --

- Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 4-22 with the following paragraph:

-- The air flow 504 may be provided to the external air applicator 500 by a number of different devices. Preferably, the air flow 504 is provided by an air knife 600, as shown in Figure 6. Air knives 600, such as those available from EXAIR Corporation, provide a sheet-like laminar flow of air by passing a flow of air or gas through one or more orifices 602 from a pressurized source such as a pressure chamber 604. Preferably, the orifices 602 are slit-shaped openings, but other types of air knife 600 may use a number of holes, rather than a slit. The air or other gas that emerges from the orifices 602 entrains a relatively large amount of air from the surrounding atmosphere, so that the air flow 504 produced by the air knife 600 may have a much greater total volume than the volume of gas or air passing through the orifice 602. The air knife 600 preferably is positioned at the upstream end of the guide plate 502 and oriented such that the air flow 504 runs parallel to the guide plate's surface. An air knife 600 used with the present invention preferably also is adjustably adjustable mounted so that its position and angle relative to the guide plate 502 may be easily modified. The characteristics of the air flow 504 produced by such air knives may be adjusted by shimming the orifice 602 to make it narrower or wider, adjusting its angle and position relative to the guide plate 502, adjusting the pressure of the air in the pressure chamber 604, modifying the shape of the air knife (particularly in the region around the orifice 602), and by other methods as will be understood ~~understood~~ by those skilled in the art based on the teachings herein. --